

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 /017 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2052

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS SOFIA 2532

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJ: CU/ARTS - LAPO

REF A) WARSAW 8478; B) ROME 19424

1. VERY DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT "SOFIA LEG LAPO'S TOUR IN JEOPARDY." IF THAT LEG WERE TO BE AMPUTATED, IT WOULD BE VERY EMBARRASSING TO THE AMERICAN AND BULGARIAN SPONSORS AND DISTRESSING TO THE MANY MUSIC LOVERS HERE WHO, IN A FANTASTIC SCRAMBLE FOR TICKETS, ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST ORCHESTRAS. PUBLICITY HAS ALREADY STARTED. FAILURE OF LAPO TO ARRIVE HERE WOULD GIVE THE US A BLACK EYE.

2. BOTH EMBASSY AND SOFIA CONCERT DOING EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE LAPO, AND BELIEVE MOVEMENT OF LAPO BELGRADE-SOFIA AND STAY IN SOFIA WILL BE SATISFACTORY. AIRCRAFT FOR PERSONNEL, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION OF INSTRUMENTS/ PROPERTIES, BUS AVAILABILITY ARE ALL ARRANGED. D AND RESTAURANT PARK HOTEL MOSKVA MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO BE COOPERATIVE.

3. RE HOTELS: (A) SOFIA CONCERT IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT LAPO ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT FIRST CLASS RATHER THAN DE LUXE ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED; (B) THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT PARK MOSKVA HOTEL IS BETTER AND NICER HOTEL THAN THE BALKAN AND BULGARIA HOTELS; (C) HOWEVER THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT ITS DE LUXE ROOMS ARE marginally RPT marginally BETTER THAN FIRST CLASS. FROM OUR OWN INVESTIGATION IT APPEARS THAT WHILE BOTH DE

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LUXE AND FIRST CLASS ROOMS ARE FAIRLY SMALL, THE DE LUXE

ROOMS ARE ABOUT ONE SQUARE METER LARGER. OTHERWISE WE
CAN SEE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM -- EXCEPT FOR PRICE.
WE BELIEVE THE ORCHESTRA WILL BE WELL PLEASED WITH THEIR
HOTEL, AND MORE SO THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH THE
BALKAN AND BULGARIA.

4. SOFIA CONCERT HAS RESERVED ANOTHER DOUBLE ROOM PARK
HOTEL MOSKVA AS REQUESTED REF B.

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